

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 05359 160021Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /028 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0390

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 05359

E.O.12065: GDS 03/14/85 (MURPHY, RICHARD W.) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM, RP, PINT
SUBJECT: BENIGNO AQUINO

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).
2. MINDEF ENRILE TOLD AMBASSADOR MARCH 12 THAT MARCOS HAD RECENTLY ASKED FOR HIS RECOMMENDATION ON DISPOSITION OF AQUINO CASE. ENRILE SAID HE HAD ADVISED MARCOS THAT OF THE THREE OPTIONS HE THOUGHT APPLICABLE -- EXILE TO THE U.S., CONTINUED DETENTION IN CAMP CRAME, AND HOUSE ARREST -- HE HAD RECOMMENDED HOUSE ARREST.
3. ENRILE TOLD MARCOS HE THOUGHT IT DESIRABLE THAT AQUINO REMAIN IN THE PHILIPPINES UNDER OBSERVATION, NOTING THERE WOULD BE NO WAY TO CONTROL HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS WERE HE TO BE SENT OFF TO THE U.S. ONCE AQUINO HAD BEEN MOVED FROM DETENTION AT THE MILITARY CAMP TO HOUSE ARREST, ENRILE CONTINUED, REGIME COULD GRADUALLY RELAX RESTRICTIONS ON HIS MOVEMENTS, GIVING HIM PERMISSION TO MOVE ABOUT MANILA, WHILE AWAITING COMPLETION OF SUPREME COURT REVIEW OF HIS CASE. IF THE COURT PRONOUNCES AQUINO INNOCENT, HE WILL BE RELEASED. IF THE COURT FINDS HIM GUILTY AS CHARGED, PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE OPTION OF GIVING HIM PRESIDENTIAL PARDON. EVENTUAL PARDON, ENRILE SAID HE HAD STRESSED TO MARCOS, WOULD BE FAR PREFERABLE TO GRANTING HIM AMNESTY AT THIS TIME, WHICH WOULD BE THE ONLY

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LEGAL PROCEDURE SHOULD MARCOS DECIDE TO RELEASE AQUINO FROM HIS PRESENT DETENTION AND NOT KEEP HIM UNDER HOUSE ARREST. A GRANT OF AMNESTY, ENRILE OBSERVED, WOULD STIMULATE REQUESTS FROM A VARIETY OF OTHER PRISONERS, INCLUDING LEADERS OF TQG CPP/ML (MAOIST) WHICH THE REGIME COULD NOT AFFORD TO ENTERTAIN.

4. EMPHASIZING THAT FOREGOING WAS TO BE HELD IN
CONFIDENCE, ENRILE ALSO INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT FORMER
SENATOR LAUREL HAS NOW ASSUMED MAJOR ROLE OF NEGOTIATING
FOR AQUINO'S RELEASE.

5. AMBASSADOR INITIATED DISCUSSION OF RECENT HUMAN
RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS WITH MARCOS IN MARCH 13 MEETING BUT
PRESIDENT DID NOT ALLUDE TO AQUINO'S SITUATION. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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